

Message

From: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Sent: 11/17/2017 12:41:31 AM
To: Dourson, Michael [dourson.michael@epa.gov]; Sands, Jeffrey [sands.jeffrey@epa.gov]; Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]; Baptist, Erik [baptist.erik@epa.gov]
Subject: family farm

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-household-well-being/glossary/#familyfarm>

broader than ours (see highlight) but not sure it gets at the aerial applicator issue.. Sheryl is going to think about this one for us...

Family Farm

The general concept of a family farm is one in which ownership and control of the farm business is held by a family of individuals related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Family ties can and often do extend across households and generations. Historically, it was not uncommon for the family farm to provide all of the labor for the farm and to own all of the land and capital of the farm. That is no longer true today, although the extent to which individual farms hire nonfamily labor, rent-in land or other capital, or contract for various farm services varies greatly across farms. In short, the organization of family farms changes over time.

There is no hard-and-fast definition of a family farm, unlike the farm definition. In its program of analyzing the well-being of farm operator households using microdata, the ERS definition of family farms has changed over time. A preferred definition of a family farm would allow for organizational changes in the way in which operators structure their farm businesses as they respond to changes in technology, the marketplace, and policies, but still capture the general concept of a family farm in which a family unit maintains majority control and ownership.

The current definition of a family farm, since 2005, based on the Agricultural Resource Management Survey is one in which the majority of the business is owned by the operator and individuals related to the operator by blood, marriage, or adoption, including relatives that do not live in the operator household. Although the definition of a family farm has changed somewhat over time, the share of U.S. farms classified as family farms has changed little since 1996, ranging from 97.1 to 98.3 percent of all farms (see the [Farm Household Income and Characteristics](#) data product table on family and nonfamily farms, by farm size class (gross sales).

Immediately prior to the implementation of the current definition, farms were considered family farms unless they were: organized as cooperatives, organized as corporations with the majority of shareholders not related (by blood, marriage, or adoption) or operated by a hired manager. In 2004, 98 percent of farms were classified as family farms using this definition with data from the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (see for more information). When the family farm definition was established using USDA's Farm Costs and Returns microdata in 1988, farms were defined as family farms unless they were organized as cooperatives or nonfamily corporations, or when the operator reported not receiving any of the net income of the business. At that time, 99 percent of farms were classified as family farms (see [The Economic Well-Being of Farm Operator Households, 1988-90](#)). USDA microdata were first collected in 1984 on the Farm Costs and Returns Survey; at that time, no distinction was made between family and nonfamily farms.

For farms where there is more than one operator and the multiple operators do not share a housing unit, detailed household data and off-farm income are not collected for the additional operators on either the Census of Agriculture or the ARMS-household data is only collected for a single principal operator. Hence, this data limitation has the effect of undercounting the total number of family farm households.

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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